

CORRECTION TO ARTICLE “CALVINISM’S PROOF TEXTS EXAMINED”

September 23, 2007 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article) -

There is a correction that needs to be made in the article “Calvinism’s Proof Texts Examined.”

In the following paragraph I referred to Exodus 8:15 to demonstrate that Pharaoh first hardened his own heart before God hardened it. This is inaccurate, because the first time that the Bible says God hardened Pharaoh’s heart is in Exodus 7:13.

Following is the paragraph in question:

“(2) As for Pharaoh, it is important to understand that he first hardened his own heart. ‘But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said’ (Ex. 8:15). This is not a case of sovereign reprobation. The Scripture teaches that it is always Gods will for men to serve Him, but when they reject Him He rejects them and judges them and makes examples of them. Compare 2 Thess. 2:10-12 -- ‘And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; BECAUSE THEY RECEIVED NOT THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: THAT THEY ALL MIGHT BE DAMNED WHO BELIEVED NOT THE TRUTH, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.’ These sinners will be damned but not because they are not sovereignly elected and not because they are sovereignly reprobate but because of their personal decision in regard to the truth. Words could not be plainer. God did make an example of Pharaoh, but to go beyond what the Bible says and to claim that God chose to create Pharaoh for the purpose of reprobating him is a great error and is to malign the name of the loving God.”

The following is a corrected edition of the paragraph.

“(2) As for Pharaoh, the Bible says that he rejected God’s Word in Exodus 5:2 before God hardened his heart in Exodus 7:3. ‘Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go’ (Ex. 5:2). Also the Bible says twice that Pharaoh hardened his own heart. ‘But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said’ (Ex. 8:15). See also Exodus 9:34. This is not a case of sovereign reprobation. The Scripture teaches that it is always Gods will for men to serve Him, but when they reject Him He rejects them and judges them and makes examples of them. Compare 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 -- ‘And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; BECAUSE THEY RECEIVED NOT THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: THAT THEY ALL MIGHT BE DAMNED WHO

BELIEVED NOT THE TRUTH, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.' These sinners will be damned but not because they are not sovereignly elected and not because they are sovereignly reprobate but because of their personal decision in regard to the truth. Words could not be plainer. God did make an example of Pharaoh and God did harden his heart for this purpose, but to go beyond what the Bible says and to claim that God chose to create Pharaoh for the purpose of reprobating him is a great error and is to malign the name of the loving God."

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